

**SECRET**

12 June 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR: All Area Divisions**

**SUBJECT: CIA Task Forces**

1. Experience has shown that CIA must develop and have in readiness the capability of swiftly assembling and dispatching to the field a rounded, versatile team of persons with various skills in order to meet and take action effectively in various cold war contingencies that might arise. The PP Staff is presently developing a plan for ensuring that CIA does have such a capability. The purpose of this memorandum is to acquaint the addressees with our general concept, and comment from the addressees will be welcomed.

2. The skills required in such a task force are by no means confined to the Clandestine Services. They must include among others, persons with skill in the fields of Communications, Logistics, Supply, Security, Medical, Administration, and Finance. Our concept does not envisage, except in very exceptional instances, that personnel will be employed by, or retain employment with the Agency solely because of the suitability of an individual for detail with a task force. It is intended instead that a Reserve component will be set up, by which a suitable number of individuals with requisite skills and health, and whose personal situations would permit, will be earmarked for possible task force assignment. The listing of personnel will be constantly changing as people rotate to and from the field. The size of the list will be large enough to permit flexibility, in order to keep sudden dislocation of persons working on other important assignments to a minimum. Detail of an individual to a task force will require the concurrence of his superior who must of course judge the relative priority of the individual's current assignment as against the contingency requirements.

3. It is planned that individuals earmarked for such detail will, with the concurrence of their superiors, be interviewed and queried as to their willingness to serve. If accepted, they will be asked to maintain shots, passports, cover arrangements, etc. on a current basis in order to permit speedy departure for the field.

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4. It must be emphasized that security considerations of the contingency may preclude employment of indigenous labor, and all personnel detailed to the task force will to a considerable extent be called on for straight manual labor. They will, of course, be called on as required, in their particular skill and experience, but a willingness to work at whatever is the job on hand is required.

5. Among the details on which the Staff is presently working are the following:

- a. Protection of individual in their current assignment (slot).
- b. Impact of the nature of the work on personal insurance coverage.
- c. Compensation and insurance coverage for hazardous duty.
- d. Seminars and training programs for maintenance of skills.

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7. As stated in paragraph 1, comments on the above will be welcomed. It is requested that such comments, if any, be submitted by 15 July 1958.

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Chief  
Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

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